

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 SCEM-02 INT-08

SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 L-03 RSR-01

SAJ-01 /177 W

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R 220915 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4762

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

MEMBASSY MOSCOW 1484

USLO PEKING

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG PFOR JA UR US

SUBJ: TYUMEN OIL PIPELINE

SUMMARY: PM TANAKA IN PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 21 MADE SEVERAL POSITIVE REFERENCES TO JAPANESE COOPERATION IN TYUMEN PROJECT AND INDICATED SOME OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO SIDES WERE OF MINOR IMPORTANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER TANAKA TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 21 THAT HE CONSIDERED TYUMEN PROJECT AS PART OF JAPAN' S OVERALL ENERGY RESOURCE POLICY DESIGNED TO DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF ENERGY. SINCE THIS IS THE CASE, TANAKA REPORTEDLY SAID, FUNDS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM EXIM BANK TO HELP FINANCE TYUMEN OIL PROJECT IF AN AGREEMENT IS SIGNED ON JAPAN- SOVIET COOPERATION ON THE PLAN. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO TOLD PRESS THAT HE HAD NO OVJECTION TO PARTICIPATION BY AMERICAN COMPANIES

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IN THE PROJECT.

2. AT ANOTHER POINT IN PRESS CONFERENCE TANAKA REPORT-EDLY SAID THAT SIBERIA DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO BOTH COUNTRIES AND " JAPAN WOULD DO IT." ADDED THAT FORM OF CREDITS FOR TYUMEN PROJECT (I. E. WHETHER CREDITS ARE BANK LOANS AS SOVIETS DESIRE OR SUPPLIERS' CREDITS AS GOJ WOULD PREFER) IS OF MINOR IMPORTANCE. TANAKA THEN NOTED HE WAS GOING TO MOSCOW AND ADDED THAT SOVIETS SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT PROJECT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT ON GOVERNMENT- TO- GOVERNMENT BASIS; HOWEVER, PROJECT' S FORM IS ONLY A FORMALITY AND OF MINOR IMPORTANCE. TANAKA' S COMMENT STIRRED PRESS SPECULATION THAT AGREEMENT ON TYUMEN PROJECT WOULD BE REACHED AT TANAKA- BREZHNEV SUMMIT.

4. DAY BEFORE TANAKA INTERVIEW (JUNE 29), SOVIET TRADE REP PETROSIAN TOLD EMBOFF THAT GENERAL PLAN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF TYUMEN WAS TO HOLD PRELIMINARY TALKS IN MOSCOW PRIOR TO SIXTH SESSION OF JAPAN-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION COMMITTEE. PRESS REPORTS HAVE SUGGESTED TYUMEN TALKS MAY BEGIN JULY 9 FOLLOWED BY COOPERATION COMMITTEE BEGINNING JULY 30. PETROSIAN SAID HOWEVER THAT HE HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM MOSCOW ABOUT DATES OF TALKS.

5. COMMENT: SOME PRESS REPORTS QUOTE TANAKA AS SAYING THAT GOJ IS CONSIDERING GRANTING \$3 BILLION FOR TUYMENT PROJECT. FONOFF SOURCE IN SOVIET AFFAIRS DIV SAID NO TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE WAS AVAILABLE, BUT IF TANAKA USED THIS FIGURE IT APPARENTLY WAS AN ERROR. WHILE SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET SPECIFIC FIGURE, BEST ESTIMATE OF AMOUNT OF REQUIRED CREDITS IS NOW \$1.2 - \$1.3 BILLION. SHOESMITH

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